

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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9-24-02

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER ^{PS}

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE PROGRAMS TO UPGRADE AUDIO VISUAL
TRAINING EQUIPMENT IN A CLASSROOM AT THE FIRE
DEPARTMENT'S TRAINING ACADEMY AT LEE CENTER

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application, in the amount of \$10,000 to upgrade audio visual training equipment for a classroom at the Fire Department's Training Academy at Lee Center.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) approve this grant submission to the Virginia Department of Fire Programs; and
- (2) authorize the City Manager to submit this application for State assistance.

DISCUSSION: This \$10,000 grant will upgrade the main training room at Alexandria's Fire Training Academy with a new generation of audio visual equipment. Alexandria's Fire Training Academy provides both general and specialized training for Fire and EMS employees, including schools for newly-hired Firefighters and Paramedics as well as classes that allow existing personnel to update their training. In addition, the main training room is used to provide CPR classes for the public and City employees, and it serves as the City's primary Emergency Operations Center during local and regional emergencies.

Over the years, specialized training in the areas of hazardous materials, structural collapse, trench rescue, and water rescue have become important training programs for the Fire Department and more recently, the U.S. Marshals Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) provided law enforcement training for the Fire Department at the Fire Training Academy. Firefighters and Paramedics from neighboring jurisdictions also routinely attend classes at the Fire Training Academy, as well as other City departments and agencies.

Upgrading the Fire Training Academy with new audio visual equipment will provide the Fire Department the opportunity to increase class size, and outfit instructors with newer technologies that will be compatible with the software used on their laptop computers. Most of the Department's instructors and subject experts use Powerpoint presentations, which will be easier to set up and will work more efficiently with this new audio visual equipment.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no match requirement for this grant; however, the estimated cost of this project is \$15,000 and the grant maximum is \$10,000. The balance of approximately \$5,000 is available in the Fire Training Division's FY 2003 budget, since equipment maintenance and supplies for the old equipment were budgeted but will not be needed if the old equipment is replaced.

ATTACHMENT: None. This grant application may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal business hours.

STAFF:

Thomas Hawkins, Fire Chief

Thomas Harrell, Battalion Chief/Fire Department Training Officer

Virginia Lester, Fiscal Officer, Alexandria Fire Department